

Senate Concurrent Resolution 4 - Reprinted

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1 1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. ____
1 2 BY JOHNSON and FRAISE
1 3 (COMPANION TO LSB 2831HH BY MERTZ)
1 4 A Concurrent Resolution relating to recommendations
1 5 proposed by the United States Department of
1 6 Agriculture for the federal farm bill of 2007.
1 7 WHEREAS, agricultural production serves as the
1 8 foundation of this nation's economy, provides abundant
1 9 supplies of nourishment to the people of the United
1 10 States and the world, and results in billions of
1 11 dollars of annual United States exports to world
1 12 markets; and
1 13 WHEREAS, the State of Iowa is one of the most
1 14 productive agricultural states in the nation, bringing
1 15 this abundance forth from the most fertile soils in
1 16 the world, and is one of the leading grain, fiber, and
1 17 livestock producers in the world; and
1 18 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has
1 19 traditionally supported agricultural production by
1 20 setting target prices and providing support payments
1 21 to ensure market security and stability, by providing
1 22 an adequate safety net to protect producers of
1 23 commodity crops from market recessions, and by
1 24 providing insurance against losses related to price
1 25 fluctuations; and
1 26 WHEREAS, the rich and fertile soils, woodlands, and
1 27 waters of the United States, including Iowa, have been
1 28 traditionally protected by Acts of Congress, and must
1 29 continue to be preserved for future generations of
1 30 Americans; and
2 1 WHEREAS, conservation policies are critical to the
2 2 ability of farmers and ranchers to meet public
2 3 expectations for water quality and environmental
2 4 enhancement within a framework that supports this
2 5 nation's farms and ranches; and
2 6 WHEREAS, American agricultural producers must
2 7 compete in both domestic and international markets,
2 8 and accordingly require proper government policies in
2 9 order to remain competitive vis-a-vis heavily
2 10 subsidized foreign producers; and
2 11 WHEREAS, the development of this nation's rural
2 12 communities is critical to the infrastructure of the
2 13 United States economy; and
2 14 WHEREAS, off-farm employment and income are
2 15 increasingly crucial to the livelihood of this
2 16 nation's farmers and ranchers, and;
2 17 WHEREAS, it is vital to improve this nation's rural
2 18 areas through funding for infrastructure and job
2 19 growth; and
2 20 WHEREAS, renewable fuel sources have emerged as the
2 21 primary and most promising solution to reducing this
2 22 nation's dependency on the petroleum resources of
2 23 other nations, as well as creating growth in the
2 24 agricultural economy of Iowa and the United States;
2 25 and
2 26 WHEREAS, young farmers are the next generation of
2 27 American agriculture and must therefore be supported
2 28 as the seeds of our future; and
2 29 WHEREAS, the United States Congress will begin
2 30 drafting the federal farm bill of 2007, which will
3 1 have substantial impact on farmers and ranchers
3 2 throughout the nation, including farmers in Iowa; NOW
3 3 THEREFORE,
3 4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
3 5 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the General Assembly
3 6 urges the United States Congress to fortify the
3 7 federal farm bill of 2007 by ensuring the continued
3 8 support of an adequate, market-driven safety net for
3 9 American agricultural producers which is structured in
3 10 a manner that ensures the equitable distribution and
3 11 consistency of support between the different
3 12 agricultural commodities and production methods; and

3 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the federal farm bill
3 14 of 2007 include limitations on farm program payments;
3 15 and
3 16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the federal farm bill
3 17 of 2007 support crops primarily produced in Iowa and
3 18 the other midwestern states, which are among those
3 19 with the greatest potential growth in production and
3 20 demand, with support provided in proportion to their
3 21 production and their value to the United States
3 22 economy; and
3 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the federal farm bill
3 24 of 2007 support the stewardship of agricultural land
3 25 by the expansion of land-retirement programs and other
3 26 programs which encourage practices that minimize the
3 27 environmental impacts of crop production; and
3 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Congress increase
3 29 conservation payments to farmers and ranchers who
3 30 practice conservation-oriented production; and
4 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the federal farm bill
4 2 of 2007 provide for increased market access to and
4 3 market development of American products; and
4 4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the federal farm bill
4 5 of 2007 include provisions that spur accelerated rural
4 6 development through funding for infrastructure and job
4 7 growth in the rural areas of the United States,
4 8 including Iowa; and
4 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the federal farm bill
4 10 of 2007 provide rural development strategies to ensure
4 11 that rural communities contribute to the United States
4 12 economy; and
4 13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the rural development
4 14 title of the federal farm bill of 2007 include funding
4 15 and technical assistance for rural utilities and the
4 16 expansion of utility services to rural communities;
4 17 and
4 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the federal farm bill
4 19 of 2007 stimulate the expansion of renewable fuel
4 20 production and development through broadening economic
4 21 support for both current technologies and resources,
4 22 and the development of new technologies and resources;
4 23 and
4 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the federal farm bill
4 25 of 2007 stimulate the use, manufacture, and transport
4 26 of renewable fuels including biodiesel and
4 27 ethanol-blended fuels by providing for payments
4 28 allocated directly to the producers of the respective
4 29 grains or biomass products, as well as to those
4 30 persons who convert grains or biomass products to
5 1 usable energy; and
5 2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the federal farm bill
5 3 of 2007 continue or expand and fully fund the United
5 4 States Department of Agriculture's programs to assist
5 5 beginning farmers; and
5 6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of
5 7 this Resolution be sent to the President of the United
5 8 States; the President of the United States Senate; the
5 9 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives;
5 10 the chairperson of the United States Senate Committee
5 11 on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; the
5 12 chairperson of the United States House of
5 13 Representatives Committee on Agriculture; the
5 14 Secretary of the United States Department of
5 15 Agriculture; and the members of Iowa's congressional
5 16 delegation.
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5 18 da:rj/cc/26